

THE SPIRIT

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INVESTITURE AND HONORS CONVOCATION

Monica Goodwin

While parents, students, faculty, and friends gathered in the auditorium, the students filed into Sherrie Van Arnam's office, donning the traditional academic attire. Their attention was not centered on the ceremony, rather, on how to keep their black mortarboard caps from falling off their heads, while developing perfect posture. Formal invitations were sent to parents encouraging them to attend the Investiture and Honors Convocation on September 9, 1985.

In the welcome address, Sister George Aquin O'Connor, President of St. Joseph's, described the history of academic attire which has been modified to the contemporary cap and gown. The wearing of academic dress, although a symbol of Commencement, is also a symbol of dedication and success. The freshmen and transfer students were "capped", which is a symbol of their being formally made part of St. Joseph's College.

Sister Margaret Buckley, Associate

Academic Dean, described the goals of the College. She cited examples from the fields of education to stress the importance of first and utmost believing in ourselves.

Many upperclassmen were inducted into Sigma Iota Chi, the College Honor Society. These students display excellence in social and extra-curricular activities as well as academic excellence. Underclassmen should look to upperclassmen as role models and acknowledge their achievements.

Following was the installation of Undergraduate Officers. Sister Teresa Avila Burke, Dean of Students, presented the officers with a yellow tassel, a symbol of service, to the Undergraduate Association.

A reception followed where parents could meet the faculty. The Investiture and Honors Convocation is one of the first events held each year at St. Joseph's College.

CONGRESSMEN WRITE BACK TO SAINT JOSEPH'S STUDENTS

Dawn Tzimorotas

In early May of last semester, several St. Joseph's students wrote to their Congressmen concerning the important issue of cuts in aid to college students. Several Congressmen

responded to these written letters. The letters outlined recent Congressional action concerning cuts in financial aid. For instance, on May 23 of this year, a Budget Resolution was approved by the House of Representatives. This resolution preserves the scope of nearly all student aid, while still cutting the deficit by \$56.2 billion in fiscal year 1986, and by \$259.1 billion through 1988. Under the House plan, the Guaranteed Student Loan program (GSL) would be funded sufficiently to handle its expected caseload without any eligibility changes. Other aid plans, including Pell Grants and work-study, would receive an increase to compensate for inflation. The various letters the students received from Congressmen are tangible proof of the fact that letters sent from constituents are really read and answered, not just thrown in the wastepaper basket. The Spirit urges all students here at St. Joseph's to write to their local, state, and national leaders about any issue which interests or concerns them. You never know, you just could make a difference.

QUESTION AND COMMENT BOX FOR THE SPIRIT

The Spirit, beginning with the second issue of the newspaper, is going to have a question and answer column. In order to collect questions, a box is going to be placed outside the main office. If a student has any question at all about St. Joseph's, or its curriculum, write the question on a small piece of paper and drop it into the box. The staff of The Spirit will investigate to find the answer, and if we are successful, both the question and answer will be printed in the following issue of the paper. Also, if you have any comments about the articles in The Spirit, please drop those in as well. We welcome your questions and comments, so please participate.

Thank You
Staff of Spirit

THE WAR IS OVER

One Student's Opinion

Harry M. Keiley

There is no other metropolis that has had more songs written about it than New York City. The songs speak about the Limelight, the action, the beauty, the grandiosity, and the people of New York City. However, to me, it's all a grand illusion. What is written about New York City in songs is not what I see in reality everyday. In the following story, some specific aspects of life in New York City will be mentioned.

Having to deal with the subway system on a daily basis has taken a toll on me. The filth of the Subways, not only the dirt, but the so called "Art" of grafetti has practically blinded my vision. The smell of urine has irritated my sense of smell. However, the most disturbing aspect of the subway system are the "animals" that commute on the trains. Yes, the animals! First, there are the crowds of people that push and shove to get on and off the trains like a charging herd of bulls or cattle. Second, there are the packs of punks that prey on the elderly and defenseless like a pack of wolves looking for their next victim. The latter problem is the more serious.

However, this is only the beginning of another dilemma. What should be done with these "animals" who have put fear into the lives of so many defenseless people? When caught, so many of these "animals", who are repeat offenders, are given "slap on the wrist" penalties, or none at all. However, some people do fight back! Although some people decide to fight back, it seems to me that the system can deter other people from doing so. Too often, the "animals", or offenders, are protected by the system rather than the victim.

Some will say that this is only one aspect of New York City life; well it is, and here is another. The environment of New York City is detrimental to one's health. The air is full of pollutants from cars, factories, and garbage dumps. Also, the air is full of noise pollution, not only from vehicles, but from the disturbing sound of radios played at an unbearable level. The waters of the city are polluted from the dumping of raw sewage. Apartment

buildings, office buildings, and homes are infested with rodents. Finally, neighborhoods are filled with debris from the lack of respect, interest, or pride of the people who live there.

What about the diversification of people found in New York City? A common quote of New Yorkers is: "You can do whatever you want in NYC, and no one will say or do anything". Is this so great? I don't think so. In every neighborhood of NYC from the upper east side of Manhattan to East New York, Brooklyn, you can witness drug abuse, alcohol abuse, pornography, selfishness, crime, and a general feeling of inhumanity. New York City is a city of moral decay. In many ways, the moral attitudes and practices of New Yorkers are similar to that of the Ancient Romans. What happened to Rome?

The final aspect of New York City life that I would like to address is the cost of living. The cost of living in NYC today is astronomical! Housing prices have sky-rocketed, rents are outrageous, but people are willing to pay the price. For what? I don't know. The cost of entertainment is a disgrace! The Theatre, which originated for the "People", is so costly that many people are unable to attend. The cost of quality clothing is absurd, even though a section of Manhattan is known as the "Garment District". Cost of insuring a car is so high that many people are unable to purchase a car to begin with. Although, in many ways, the economy of NYC is only a microcosm of the national economy, the cost of living in NYC is among the highest in the country.

To prove that I am aware of some positive aspects of NYC, I will mention a few. There is an abundance of excellent libraries, museums, and tourist attractions. Central Park is beautiful, and there are some awesome buildings in Manhattan. However, what decides the "quality" of a city is the people, and not the artificial or superficial variables of the city. The attitudes and beliefs of the people are the determining factors in whether, or not, a city is really alive, or just existing!

In my eyes, the war in New York City is over. The "BAD GUYS" have won. However, some will say the war has just begun. They will stay and fight some more. A second group will deny the fact that there is such a war.

Then there is a third group that have accepted the idea that the "BAD GUYS" have won and will move on to a place where they can live rather than merely fight to survive!

A FRESHMAN'S VIEW

James Argento

Perhaps the most important impression one has of a particular place is the first impression. I have mixed emotions concerning the way I saw St. Joes for the first time. My brother had attended the college so I knew what its "campus" looked like. However, I was not familiar with any of the students or faculty. Realizing that the students know the custodial and cafeteria staff on a first name basis gives way to the fact that St. Joes is a small school. However, there is nothing wrong with a small school. As a matter of fact, I chose St. Joes partly for the reason that it is small, (and because I received a scholarship). I am living proof that St. Joes does not get the respect it feels it deserves. I, originally, was not planning to go to Saint Joseph's College. I was looking to an out of state, highly competitive college with an excellent business department. True, St. Joes business department is not regarded as one of the more superior academic institutions in the nation, *but then again*, it *doesn't* appear as if it lacks all that N.Y.U.'s business school has to offer, except for maybe a few hundred students and a few more classrooms. I am not able to prove that this is true,

in fact, I may not find out until I try to get into a graduate school or find a fairly prestigious job. Unfortunately, this is the case concerning most areas of study at St. Joseph's.

Students, like myself, down-grade the school by comparing it to Harvard and Dartmouth, which shouldn't be done. If I really didn't like it here at St. Joes, I would transfer out, and I'm not planning to. The point I'm trying to make is that St. Joes has a lot to offer, but most students, like myself, don't realize it. I know that a common argument most freshmen have had with their parents, *before* coming to St. Joes is over the fact that the parents of the freshmen try to convince them that St. Joes is just as good as any other school. My mother told me that I would get just as much out of St. Joes as I would out of Princeton. I'm aware that this is a bit of exaggeration, and my mother is speaking out of slight ignorance, but I have to agree with her on the point that for a small

school it has a lot of opportunities for its students.

I also have noticed that students at the school, mainly freshmen, have to convince their friends that St. Joes is a good school *academically*, but more importantly, socially. I know that this is true because I compare the activities at St. Joes to those at Bucknell, where my friend attends school, and so do many other people. True, my friend's orientation lasted two weeks and mine barely a day, but now I realize that it just doesn't matter. So what, I don't party every night at one of the frat houses. Who cares if I'm not involved in some extra-curricular activity constantly, but that is also the fault of students at St. Joes. The college carries a lot of dead wood within the student body. Normally, this isn't a problem, but with a small school, it is essential that many people get involved so we can have the groups and activities other schools have. Just because we belong to a small college doesn't mean we can't do the same things Harvard does, even if it is on a smaller scale. To a certain extent, the students do attempt this. I quickly realized at my first *swamp* what was going on around me. Physically, people were drinking and "partying" to a mild extent, except for one bearded

fellow who was drinking beer from a pitcher because it was his birthday, but they were also participating in an event which is present at most colleges. In their minds, the students were saying, "Hey, I'm doing what my friend Phil is doing up at Cornell and my school is twenty times smaller." This comparison is okay, but should be avoided. If you find yourself comparing St. Joes to an out of town school, you're likely to get upset with yourself, and annoyed with the school you're in, St. Joes.

It can safely be said that Saint Joseph's is unique, apart from any other school. After all, my high school graduating class had more students in it than St. Joes has in the whole school, which makes SJC even more special. I can honestly say that I'm proud to be a student at Saint Joseph's College, Brooklyn, New York, even if it doesn't have everything other schools do. Just remember, the next time your friend from Brown asks you, "How is St. Joes?" Just tell him, it was worth staying home for.

FALL FASHION FORECAST

Monica Goodwin

For fashion this fall, think bold and Baroque. Patterned sweaters with fuzzy and baby-soft textures play an important part of your wardrobe. Look for black teamed with red, royal blue, white, yellow grey, and magenta infloral and abstract designs. These patterns are inspired by the native designs of Greenland and even Guatemala. Team oversized sweaters with skinny stirrup pants. Fashion rule; when the top is big, always keep the bottom low scale. These stirrup pants are inspired by the ski pants of the sixties. Who says history does not repeat itself?

Calvin Klein shows us how the west was won with a new version of the western shirt with a contrasting yoke. A small scale paisley print flannel shirt and jeans look at home on or off the range. Don't despair girls, your prairie skirt can be resurrected with modified western accessories. The Laura Ingalls look this is not.

Hemlines are generally longer, mid-calf, but minis are fun for those who dare. Hint: pins are in. Classy tweed blazers are emblazoned with jeweled brooches and medals. Look for brocade, lace, tapestry, satin, and wool. Don't skimp on details, to complete the Baroque look, all accessories are a must. faux and inexpensive. Strands of pearls go great with a tapestry vest. Baroque fashions are overflowing with the richly ornate themes of the 17th century. Brocade vests, tapestry skirts, and paisley jackets are all the rage. Hint: to achieve the spirit of the Baroque era, there are two approaches, simple with one or two pieces, or go all out with pearls, long gilt chains, and jewel encrusted brooches. Completing the look is a velvet beret.

"Fashion is what you wear, but style is how you wear it." This saying sums up how you can jazz up your wardrobe with the right accessories so that you can have style.

YOUNGER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Application Forms
Now on Campus
For Summer Research
in the Humanities

Guidelines and application forms for the Younger Scholars Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities are now available for photocopying in the Placement Office. The Program will award up to 100 grants nationally to college and high school students.

In the forthcoming issues of The Spirit, there is going to be reserved a section for creative writing. If a student at Saint Joseph's would like to have any of his works published, submit the sample to a staff member. This month we have a sonnet written by an anonymous member of the Saint Joseph's community.

Sonnet I

The ultimate occurrence of my life
Was to have known you, to have
known your love.
My inner conflict was all free
from strife,
Our union had been a gift from
above.
But you are here no longer, you
are gone,
The after-world has seized from
you your breath.
I must accept it, I must carry on.
You've yielded to the charms of
Lady Death.
Was my life better when I had
Not known
What it felt like to fill that
empty space?
Without that knowledge I would
not have grown,
What you were to me no one can
replace.
Although in my heart you will
always stay,
I now accept that you have gone
away.....